

Representative Lisa Subeck's E-Newsletter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This week got off to a disappointing start with the U.S Supreme Court's decision not to consider a case challenging Wisconsin's Voter I.D. law.

This week's newsletter provides an update on what the Supreme Court's decision will mean for Wisconsin, a preview of the spring election on April 7, the latest discouraging jobs numbers for Wisconsin, and a look at some activity at the Capitol.

If you have any questions or need assistance with any matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Lisa Subeck State Representative 78th Assembly District

U.S. Supreme Court Declines to Review Wisconsin's Voter I.D. Law

I am disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision not to consider Wisconsin's Voter I.D. law. This law is nothing more than a mean-spirited attempt by Republicans to keep those least favorable to their own candidates away from the polls. It is important to note, though, that implementation of the law has been postponed until after the April 7th election. This means that while no ID will be required to vote in the upcoming spring election, many students, senior citizens, low-income, and minority voters will likely be disenfranchised in future elections because they lack the required state-issued photo I.D. cards.

If you do not have a current state-issued photo I.D. card, it is not too early to prepare for upcoming elections in 2016. Watch this newsletter in upcoming weeks for more information about what identification will be needed and how to go about obtaining the necessary documents.

Voter I.D. will not be in effect for the April 7 spring election.

April 7th Spring Election

Early Voting

In-person absentee voting has begun. You can vote early at the City Clerk's office on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. through April 3. The Madison City Clerk's office is located at 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 103.

On The Ballot

Statewide Referendum/Constitutional Amendment:

Everyone will find a referendum on the ballot proposing a constitutional amendment that would change how the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court is elected. The Wisconsin constitution currently provides that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is its longest-serving member. Under the proposed constitutional amendment, the other Justices would select the Chief Justice.

Republicans in the Legislature brought this proposal forward, and I voted against the resolution that put it on the ballot. The resolution passed the Assembly on a party-line vote, with all Republicans voting in favor and all Democrats voting against it.

The non-partisan Government Accountability Board provides the following explanation of the referendum question: "A 'yes' vote on this question would mean that the Chief Justice shall be elected for a term of two years by a majority of the justices then serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Justice who is elected may decline to serve as Chief Justice or resign the position, but still continue to serve as a Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. A 'no' vote would mean that the longest-serving member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court serves as Chief Justice of the Court. The Justice designated as Chief Justice may decline to serve as Chief Justice or resign the position, but still continue to serve as

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Things happening in the district & around Madison

Our Declaration: In Defense of Equality **Tuesday, March 24 7:30pm-9:30pm** Shannon Hall, Wisconsin Union Theater 800 Langdon Street Madison, WI 53706

A part of the Wisconsin Union Directorate Distinguished Lecture Series, Danielle S. Allen is a MacArthur Award-winning classicist and political theorist who examines issues of contemporary citizenship and argues for the importance of connecting people across racial, socioeconomic, educational and religious divides. Her recent book, Our Declaration, is an incisive rereading of the Declaration of Independence that restores equality to its rightful place alongside freedom as a foundational principle of democratic governance.

Kids in the Rotunda **Saturday, March 28th**Overture Center-Rotunda Stage
201 State St. Madison, 53703

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a Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court."

Supreme Court Justice:

All residents will also find an election for Supreme Court Justice on the ballot. Incumbent Justice Ann Walsh Bradley faces challenger James P. Daley, who is the presiding judge of the Rock County Circuit Court.

Madison Mayor:

City of Madison residents will cast their votes for Madison's next Mayor. Incumbent Mayor Paul Solgin faces a challenge by current City Council member Scott Resnick.

Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) and Verona Area School District (VASD)

Residents who live in the MMSD or VASD school district attendance areas will vote on referendums related to additional spending for facilities. The VASD referendum relates to purchase of land for future elementary and high school development. The MMSD referendum considers facilities improvements for expansion and accessibility, technology infrastructure upgrades, and renovations to some schools.

Also on the Ballot:

Depending upon exactly where you live, you may also find contested or uncontested elections for City Council and School board on your ballot.

More Election Information

Click here to see what is on your ballot.

Click here to find more information on the various referendums or to read the "Candidates' Answers" on the League of Women Voters of Dane County website.

Polls will be open on April 7th from 7am to 8p.m. Click here to find your polling place.

Wisconsin Republicans Failing on Jobs and Economy

Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released updated quarterly jobs data showing that Wisconsin has fallen to 40th in the nation for private-sector job growth over the past year covering September 2013 to September 2014. Wisconsin's private-sector job growth rate of 1.16 percent was just half the national rate of 2.3 percent.

It is being reported that Wisconsin is tied for 38th with Iowa and Vermont, but Wisconsin actually trails both states when job growth rates are not rounded. Quarterly jobs numbers are a hard count of jobs created and represent the most accurate data available. They have been called the "gold standard" of jobs data, even by Governor Walker.

Meanwhile, we are nearly 3 full months into the legislative session, and Republican leadership has failed to take up a single bill addressing our economic challenges. Democrats recognize that we desperately need to focus our attention on restoring economic opportunity for Wisconsinites and have proposed a package of 15 bills to do just that, but Republicans have not even scheduled a hearing on any one of these bills.

Click here for more information about the Assembly Democrats' 15 Bills for 2015 Agenda for Economic Opportunity.

Budget Summary Highlights, Lowlights, and Hearings

In last week's newsletter, I included a summary of items in the budget. You can find that summary, as well as an up-to-date list of upcoming budget hearings and listening sessions, by clicking here.

UPDATE on Madison listening sessions:

Dane County Listening Session

Where: Madison East High School Auditorium, 2222 E Washington Ave, Madison

When: March 30th Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Who: Dane County Senate and Assembly members

78th Assembly District Listening Session

Where: Alicia Ashman Library, 733 N High Point Road, Madison

When: April 8th Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Who: State Representative Lisa Subeck

Remembering Robert W. "Bob" Kastenmeier

I was saddened to learn that former Congressman Bob Kastenmeier passed away this weekend. Kastenmeier represented the Madison area for 32 years in Congress, from 1959 to 1991. During his time in Congress, he worked tirelessly to protect civil liberties and set an example for legislators on all levels in terms of civility in politics. He gained national attention from his early opposition to sending

beats and funky rhythms to capture children's imaginations and promote positive messages about making good decisions, discovering one's voice and celebrating the power of family and friendship. This a free event for families.

West Side Farmers Market Saturdays, April 18th to November 14th 7AM - 1PM Hill Farms DOT Building Parking Lot University Ave. & Segoe Rd.

Health Insurance Enrollment and Exemption Application Assistance. Mondays, March 15th to April 3oth Noon - 5 pm Richard Dilley Tax Center (Atrium) Villager Mall S. Park St., Madison

Thursdays, March 15 - August 31st 10 am - 3 pm Dane County Job Center - 1819 Aberg Ave., Madison

Consumers can walk-in for assistance or make appointments by call Covering Kids & Families at 608-261-1455.

troops to Vietnam. Kastenmeier will be remembered as a model public servant, and he will be greatly missed.

Session Day Highlights

Last Tuesday, Republican leadership scheduled yet another floor session without taking up a single bill to restore economic opportunity in our state. Here are a few of the bills that the Assembly passed last week:

AJR 4 - This resolution honors the service of all military working dogs and officially declares March 13th to be K-9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin. The resolution passed on a bi-partisan vote, and all of us enjoyed a visit from area military and police dogs.

AB 27- This bill gives the Wisconsin Department of Transportation the authority to increase the speed limit to 70 MPH on freeways and expressways. Not all highway speed limits will necessarily be increased, as DOT has been given discretion to determine where such an increase may be appropriate. I voted against this bill due to concerns about safety after reviewing statistics from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and other research showing an increase in highway deaths in nearly every scenario where speed limits were similarly increased.

AB 37- This bill makes minor changes to Wisconsin's statutes regarding alcohol licenses to clarify standards as they relate to so-called "paint and sip" studios. These are a relatively new concept in Wisconsin, and we have already seen them coming to the Madison area. This bill provides more clarity to municipalities who grant these liquor licenses.

Visit from Olsen Elementary School

Last Tuesday, students from Olsen Elementary School visited the Capitol to learn more about state government. I was able to visit with them for a few minutes in the Rotunda before having to take my seat for our session day.



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